

Strengthening public transportation will boost economy — Academicians

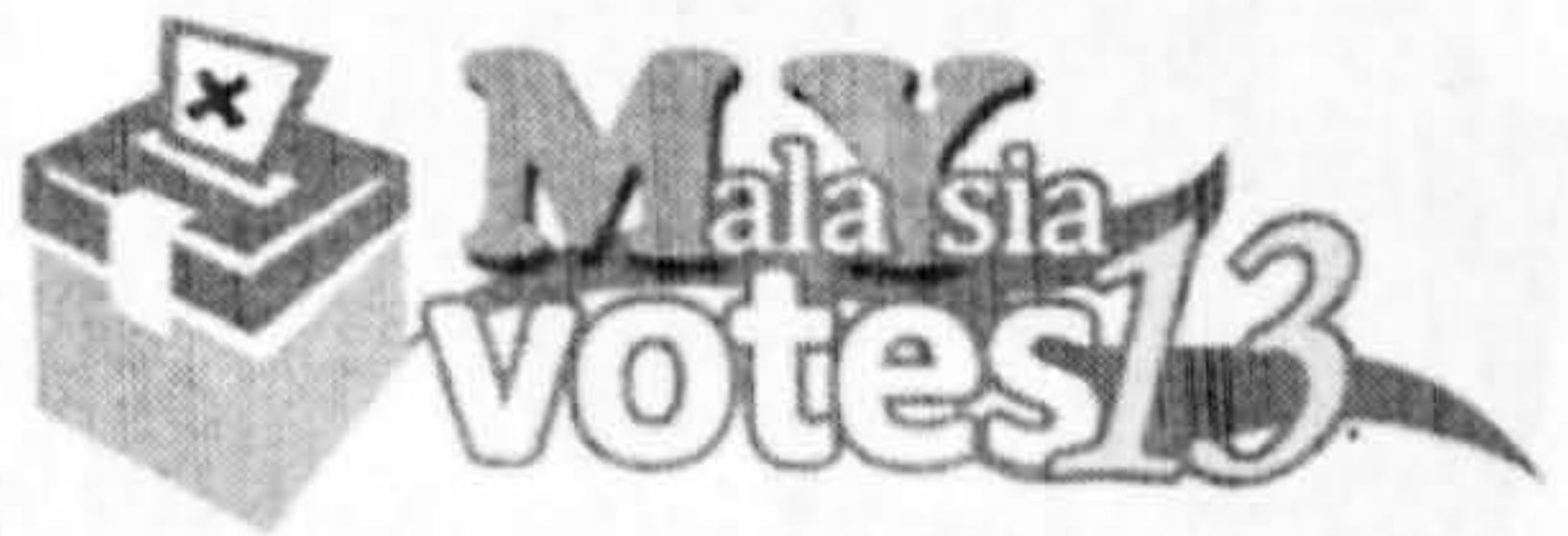
KUALA LUMPUR: The efforts of the Barisan Nasional (BN) in boosting the public transportation system is seen as capable of smoothening the daily activities of the people and spurring the national economy.

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) economics lecturer Prof Dr Shazali Abu Mansor said this could be seen in the initiative of the government in expanding the Rapid bus system nationwide, the rail system and Mass Rapid Transit (MRT).

"The emphasis on a bus transportation system in every state can smoothen the daily activities of the people and help those involved in commerce because being on time is precious," he said when contacted by Bernama.

Giving the Malaysia-Singapore High Speed Railway Link as an example, he said it would open more cross-boundary trade and numerous investment opportunities for investors in both countries.

Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) economics lecturer Prof Amir Hussin Baharuddin said with improvements in public transportation to be implemented by it BN, would facilitate and bring comfort to the people.



"Providing more parking lots such as 'Park and Ride' also encourages more consumers, especially those driving their own vehicles, to use public transportation to reduce road congestion," said Amir Hussin.

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Social Sciences lecturer Associate Professor Dr Sivamurugan Pandian said the people could evaluate for themselves BN's capability in meeting its promised commitment to boost public transportation.

"What is done by BN such as expanding the Rapid bus transportation system at every state capital, expanding the MRT system, Light Rail Transit and commuter, building bus terminals and restructuring bus routes to ensure a better service are among measures currently being undertaken.

He said the Pan Borneo Highway Project from Sematan in Sarawak to Serudung, Sabah was also seen as capable of expanding the public transportation system in the two states. — Bernama